

SN. 09/876,179

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. WATA:012

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite that either or both of the first transparent films and the second transparent films are arranged such that a difference between maximum and minimum values of light reflectance is not more than about 10% at wavelengths corresponding to each of red, green, and blue components of visible light so that the reflective mirror is substantially free of ripples in an optical reflection spectrum or optical transmission spectrum across a visible region. Support for the amendment is found at least on pages 23-24, Tables 3-4, and Figs. 7-12. No new matter has been introduced.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ouderkirk (USP 6,262,842) in view of Kamiya (USP 6,317,179). Applicants submit that the present amendment renders this rejection moot since the combination would not have taught a reflective mirror having the presently claimed property, namely having either or both of the first transparent films and the second transparent films arranged such that a difference between maximum and minimum values of light reflectance is not more than about 10% at wavelengths corresponding to each of red, green, and blue components of visible light so that the reflective mirror is substantially free of ripples in an optical reflection spectrum or optical transmission spectrum across a visible region.

The present invention is directed to reducing ripples in the optical reflection or transmission spectrum across a visible region. In this regard, the examiner states that Ouderkirk teaches suppressing ripples based on Figs. 5-6 and column 5, lines 30-33. Applicants disagree because column 5 pointed out by the examiner merely states that asymmetrical reflective films are desirable in certain instances so that the average transmission along one stretch direction can be less than 50%, and 20% along the other stretch direction, over a visible spectrum (400-700

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nm). This passage states nothing about reducing ripples. Moreover, Figs. 5 and 6 do not disclose suppressing ripples across the visible spectrum. Rather, Figs. 5-6 clearly illustrate ripples forming along the visible spectrum, namely about the blue color region. Further, Ouderkirk is completely silent regarding the difference between the maximum and minimum values of light reflectance called for in claim 1.

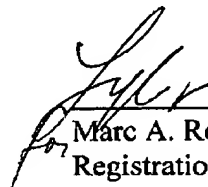
Kamiya, the other relied upon reference, does not alleviate Ouderkirk's shortcomings noted above, even if the combination were deemed proper. Accordingly, claims 1-10 patentably distinguish over these references.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance and thus urge the examiner to issue an early Notice of Allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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LYLE KIMMS
REG. NO. 34079
RULE 34A
Marc A. Rossi
Registration No. 31,923

ROSSI & ASSOCIATES
P.O. Box 826
Ashburn, VA 20146-0826
Phone: 703-726-6020